

March 8, 1979

Mr. Alonzo Kittrels  
Executive Superintendent  
Board of Education  
2 Cedar Street  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Dear Mr. Kittrels:

The parents and staff at the Ironbound Community School have decided that it would be detrimental to our students to shorten their school day. The education of our children is of the utmost importance and we feel that any attempt to shorten their instructional time would not be beneficial.

We did not come to this decision easily. Long and searching discussions were held. The issue and its <sup>to</sup> repercussions were thoroughly discussed in depth. We would like to share some of the reasons that led to our decision to keep children in school until 3:00 P.M.

1. Art, music and projects are an important part of a well rounded education and we feel it is necessary that these areas still be available to our children. In order to fit all of these areas in without taking away from the basic skills program, we feel it is necessary to keep to the original time for dismissal at 3:00 P.M.

2. It is unreasonable that children be expected to eat lunch and still be able to enjoy a recreational period in thirty minutes.

3. The majority of our parents are working people and the added burden of the child care that would be required in an early closing situation is an added hardship for both children and parents.

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4. Our staff has always had a weekly time slot when they came together as a group to exchange ideas, information, discuss curriculum and to deal with problems. These meetings usually last approximately three hours and are conducted after school hours. This weekly meeting continues to be our staff development program.

5. Since our teachers team teach in the real sense of the word, planning and student evaluation is always a joint effort, and is done on the teachers own time.

6. Our philosophy regarding teachers, students and parents has always been one of openness and availability. Parents have daily access to our teachers.

We hope that you will understand that the policies you respect and consider important to a thorough and efficient education have always been priorities at the Community School. We feel that we have always included staff development and parental in-put in our program and can continue to do so without depriving our children of a full day of instruction.

Yours sincerely,

Veronica Faulkner  
President, Action Committee  
Ironbound Community School

cc: Ronald F. Zarkin